

Message Text

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SUBJ: SYRIAN REACTION TO SINAI AGREEMENT - SEPT. 19

1. SUMMARY: SECOND HALF OF KHADDAM INTERVIEW IN KUWAITI
AL-QABAS INCLUDED DENUNCIATION OF AMERICAN GUARANTEES,
RENEWED SUSPICION OF MOTIVATION BEHIND IDEA OF CONVOKING
GENEVA CONFERENCE, REFUSAL TO ACCEPT BILATERAL MEETING WITH
EGYPT AND DEMAND THAT SADAT ABROGATE AGREEMENT. END SUMMARY.

2. DOMESTIC

SEPT 19 MEDIA REPORTED THAT BAATH PARTY NATIONAL COMMAND HAS
RECEIVED MORE CABLES OF SUPPORT FROM SYRIAN AND OTHER ARAB
ORGANIZATIONS.

3. FOREIGN

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PRESS REPORTED BILL BEFORE KUWAITI PARLIAMENT CALLING

FOR SUSPENSION OF KUWAITI FINANCIAL AID TO EGYPT. DOCUMENTS DISCLOSED BY NEW YORK TIMES ALLEGE THAT U.S. UNDERTOOK SECRET COMMITMENTS TO COORDINATE POLICY WITH ISRAEL, DESIST FROM RECOGNITION OF PLO UNTIL IT RECOGNIZED ISRAEL, AND SUPPLY ISRAEL WITH ADVANCED WEAPONS (LATTER PROVISION SUPPOSEDLY APPROVED BY EGYPT).

4. KHADDAM INTERVIEW, PART II

SECOND PART OF KHADDAM AL-QABAS INTERVIEW REPORTED IN SEPT 19 PRESS CONTAINED SUMMARY OF TOUGH SYRIAN STAND TOWARD SINAI AGREEMENT AND OTHER ISSUES. KHADDAM STATED THAT SYRIA VIEWED GOLAN "FROM PERSPECTIVE OF PALESTINE" AND NOT VICE-VERSA. CONCERNING NEW GOLAN DISENGAGEMENT, KHADDAM DECLARED, "WE HAVE NOT ASKED FOR IT. WE HAVE NOT AGREED WITH AMERICANS OR WITH EGYPTIANS. THERE ARE NO NEGOTIATIONS AND NO CONTACTS WITH

AMERICANS OR WITH EGYPTIANS ON THIS SUBJECT." RELATIVE TO SUBJECT OF GUARANTEES MADE TO EGYPT, HE ANSWERED THAT "SYRIA'S GUARANTEES NOT TAKEN FROM AMERICANS. THEY REPOSE IN SYRIA'S POWER, NOT IN WORDS FROM FORD OR SADAT." KHADDAM ADDED THAT SARG HAD NOT YET DISCUSSED EXTENSION OF UNDOF AND THAT SYRIAN VIEWED IDEA BEHIND TALK OF RE-CONVOKING GENEVA AS ATTEMPT "TO MISLEAD WORLD PUBLIC OPINION INTO EXPECTING PEACE AND SUBSEQUENTLY TO CAUSE DECREASE IN WORLD PRESSURE AGAINST ISRAEL." HE CONCLUDED BY CALLING ON SADAT TO ABROGATE AGREEMENT, CLAIMING THAT "THERE IS NO OTHER SOLUTION AND NO PROSPECT OF SYRIAN-EGYPTIAN BILATERAL MEETING UNDER THIS AGREEMENT." EGYPT MAY DEVIATE FROM ARAB SUMMIT RESOLUTIONS AND CAUSE SPLIT IN ARAB UNITY, BUT "WE ARE NOT FORCED TO PROVIDE LEGALITY AND COVER FOR AGREEMENT WHICH WE BELIEVE HAS STABBED US AND ARAB CAUSE."

5. BAJBUJ SPEECH IN MOSCOW

IN SPEECH TO AFRO-ASIAN GATHERING IN MOSCOW, ASST. SEC GEN OF BAATH PARTY REGIONAL COMMAND MUHAMMAD JABIR BAJBUJ TERMED SINAI AGREEMENT "GRAVE SETBACK" AND CHARGED THAT IT IGNORED BASIC ISSUES IN ARAB-ZIONIST DISPUTE--COMPLETE WITHDRAWAL FROM OCCUPIED TERRITORY AND RESTITUTION OF PALESTINIAN RIGHTS. UNCLASSIFIED

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HE ALLEGED THAT IT CONTRADICTED ARAB SUMMIT RESOLUTIONS AND WAS CONCLUDED UNDER U.S. AUSPICES RATHER THAN WITHIN FRAMEWORK OF "INTERNATIONAL LEGITIMACY." HE ADDED THAT AGREEMENT WOULD PROLONG PERIOD OF OCCUPATION. HE CONCLUDED WITH OBSERVATION THAT "AGREEMENT ADDS TO AMPLICATED SITUATION IN ME ADDITIONAL COMPLEXITIES AND TENSIONS WHICH ARE PUSHING REGION IN DIRECTION OF EXPLOSION."

6. COMMENTARY

BAATH PARTY NATIONAL COMMAND MEMBER FADIL AL-ANSARI DEFENDED PARTY FROM SADAT'S ATTACKS WITHOUT MENTIONING HIS NAME. HE CHARGED EGYPT WITH TREASON, SABOTAGING ARAB SOLIDARITY, ISOLATING EGYPTIAN INTERESTS FROM INTERESTS OF ARAB NATION, FORSAKING PALESTINIAN RIGHTS, INTRODUCING AMERICAN PRESENCE ONTO EGYPTIAN TERRITORY, AND GIVING AWAY MAJOR SHARE OF EGYPTIAN BARGAINING POINTS. HE SAID THAT EGYPT TRYING TO DEAL WITH HOSTILE REACTION TO AGREEMENT BY POSTPOA OPZAO OF UNIVERSITIES, ARRESTING WORKERS AND HOUNDING PALESTINIANS IN EGYPT. HE ADDED THAT "SYRIA CAPABLE OF DISCLOSING DOCUMENTED BITTER FACTS AT PROPER TIME WHEN NO OTHER CHOICES LEFT," AN APPARENT TO SADAT'S REVELATIONS ABOUT OCT WAR TALKS WITH ASAD. ANSARI CONCLUDED BY URGING PALESTINIANS TO "RISE TO LEVEL OF CHALLENGE AND ENRICH ARAB REVOLUTIONARY CURRENT."

7. SEPT 19 AL-BAATH COLUMNIST CRITICIZED SADAT FOR DEVIATING FROM NASSERIST LINE, PARTICULARLY IN MOVING CLOSER TO U.S., CLOSING PALESTINIAN DOOR, UNDERMINING SOVIET-EGYPTIAN FRIENDSHIP, WEAKENING PUBLIC SECTOR, AND CAUSING SOCIALISM TO RETREAT. SECOND AL-BAATH COLUMNIST CHARGED SADAT WITH SHIFTING FROM POLICY OF "NO NEGOTIATION" TO "SURRENDER." ANY OBSERVER WHO WATCHES "FLOOD OF ARMS" POURING INTO ISRAEL WILL REALIZE THAT EGYPTIAN RULERS HAVE DECEIVED THEMSELVES INTO IMAGINING THAT ISRAELI ATTITUDE HAS CHANGED. ANOTHER AL-BAATH COLUMNIST PRAISED EGYPTIAN PEOPLE AS BEING "HEART OF ARABISM" AND STATED THEY WOULD "REMAIN IN HEARTS OF ARAB PEOPLE REGARDLESS OF EGYPTIAN REGIME'S ATTEMPTS TO DEVIATE FROM THIS LINE."

8. AL-THAWRAH COLUMNIST SCORNE VIEW OF EGYPTIAN JOURNALIST WHO HAD DEMANDED DISSOLUTION OF FEDERATION OF ARAB REPUBLICS IN UNCLASSIFIED

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RESPONSE TO SYRIAN CRITICISM OF AGREEMENT. ANOTHER AL-THAWRAH COLUMNIST DEPLORED "TRAITOROUS AGREEMENT" BUT EXPRESSED CONFIDENCE THAT ARAB PEOPLE OF "EASTERN AND WESTERN WINGS" WOULD EMERGE VICTORIOUS FROM PRESENT CRISIS. THIRD AL-THAWRAH COLUMNIST STATED THAT ISRAEL DERIVED STRENGTH FROM AMERICAN WEAPONS AND "FREEZING OF EGYPTIAN FRONT." HE OPINED THAT "ABUNDANT ARAB POSSIBILITIES ON NORTHERN FRONT" COULD FILL IN GAP CREATED BY WITHDRAWAL OF EGYPTIAN FRONT FROM CONFRONTATION WITH ISRAEL.

9. COMMENT: KHADDAM'S CALL FOR ABROGATION OF ACCORD SPEARHEADS SYRIAN PRESS CAMPAIGN WHICH IN LAST TWO DAYS HAS SIGNIFICANTLY INCREASED VOLUME AND INTENSITY OF CRITICISM LEVELLED AT U.S., EGYPT AND SINAI ACCORD.
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